

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/827,506

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on April 19, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Alan Kamrath on December 12, 2005.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Page 1 Line 13, the phrase "US Patent Application No. 10/298407 disclosed" has been amended to -US Patent Application No. 10/298407, which is now US Patent No 6,776,441, disclosed-.
 - Page 4 Line 9, the phrase "a casing 2" has been amended to -a casing 2-.
 - Page 7 Line 23, the phrase "the casing 1" has been amended to -the casing 2-.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-8 are allowed.**

Reasons For Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the casing includes stops so that when the hooked second end of each hook member is in the locking position and subjected to an impact

exceeding a predetermined extent, each hook member pivots inward, with the intermediate portion of the hook member pressing against the associated one of the stops, causing the hook member to move to thereby retract the hooked second end of each hook member into the casing.

Liu (US 6,776,441) discloses a lock assembly comprising a casing (1) having two openings (18).

The lock assembly further comprises a pivotable member (2) pivotally mounted in the casing, two linking rods (21), two hook devices (3) each including a hook member (32) and a rocker arm (35), each being pivotally mounted in the casing. The second end of each linking rod is pivotally connected to an associated one of the rocker arms. Each hook member have a first end pivotally connected to an associated one of the rocker arms, and further includes a hooked second end that is passable through an associated one of the openings of the casing. When either of the pivotable members is pivoted, each rocker arm and each hook member is actuated such that the hooked second end of each hook member is moved between a retracted position in the casing and a locking position out of the casing.

Liu fails to disclose that the lock assembly has two pivotable members configured in such manner that rotation of one of the pivotable members causes rotation of the other pivotable member in order to actuate the hook devices.

Clancy (US 6,264,252) teaches that it is well known in the art of door locks to provide a lock assembly with two pivotable members (64 and 66) configured in such

manner that rotation of one of the pivotable members causes rotation of the other pivotable member in order to actuate the hook devices.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the lock assembly described by Liu with two pivotable members, as taught by Clancy '252, since duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art.

However, Liu, as modified by Clancy '252, fails to disclose that the casing includes stops that when the hooked second end of each hook member is in the locking position and subjected to an impact exceeding a predetermined extent, each hook member pivots inward, with the intermediate portion of the hook member pressing against the associated one of the stops, causing the hook member to move to thereby retract the hooked second end of each hook member into the casing.

Woodworth (US 3,019,043), Speed (US 6,672,632) and Le Bon (US 2,701,157) teaches that it is well known in the art to make the hook members able to move to a secure position due to an impact by a keeper or striker assembly when the hook members are in the locked position but not connecting the door to a doorframe.

However, neither Woodworth, Speed or Le Bon teaches that each hook member pivots inward, with the intermediate portion of the hook member pressing against the associated one of the stops, causing the hook member to move to thereby retract the hooked second end of each hook member into the casing.

Woodworth teaches that the hook member (12) will press against a stop member (the wall of the casing) causing the hook member to move to thereby retract the hooked second end of each hook member into the casing. However, Woodworth teaches that the end of the hook member, not the intermediate portion of the hook member, is the part that presses against the stop member.

Le bon also teaches that is the end portion (at 47, Figure 4) and not the intermediate portion of the hook member (27) the part that presses against the stop member (the wall 16).

Speed teaches that the hook member (306) has an intermediate portion that contacts the stop members (212). However, the intermediate portion of the hook member will contact the stops (212) after the hook member are inside the casing, not that the intermediate portion will contact the stops to cause the hook member to move to thereby retract the hooked second end of each hook member into the casing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number 571-272-7058. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

Art Unit: 3676


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C.L.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3676

December 12, 2005.


BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER